

Perfin on British transportation stamp remains a mystery

Stephen J. Tauber (#2949)

I have come upon another perfin on a stamp issued by a transportation company. It's a Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway 1d lithographed prepaid parcel stamp, dull rose, roulette 7. There is a six-digit control number printed in black on the face. It has perfin WHS/&S reading upwards. There is a blue crayon cancellation.



There is no listing for the basic stamp in H.

L'Estrange Ewen, *Priced Catalog of the Railway Letter Stamps of the United Kingdom, 1891-1903*, or in several other references I consulted. The reference material evidently made a distinction between stamps for letters and those for parcels, listing only the former. The shape and mode of printing are like the letter stamps (2d or 3d) of that railway and of many other British railways, but the arrangement of lettering, numeral of value, and currency designation are markedly different. The denomination puts it into the £/s/d period; that is, prior to 1971.

I'd appreciate hearing from anyone who can provide more information about the stamp or its user. I can be reached at 38 Inglestone Road, Lexington, MA 02173-2522.

Editor's note: A similar, but smaller, British pattern is listed in the 1986 Lucas catalog of the perfins of Great Britain, but no user is identified.